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CITY OBTAINS TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDERS AGAINST SALES OF ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

INDIANAPOLIS – The Office of the City Prosecutor (OCP) and the Department of Code Enforcement (DCE) today obtained temporary restraining orders against multiple defendants allegedly operating illegal firework retail establishments. The defendants include permit applicants, property owners, and tenants.

The temporary restraining orders prevent a total of six locations from selling fireworks. Four of the locations are in commercial zoning areas, and two are in residential neighborhoods. None of the retail establishments are properly zoned for fireworks sales, and the commercial locations have Fire Code and Indiana Administrative Code violations.

DCE inspectors identified multiple Fire Code violations that include: out-of-date fire extinguishers, improperly installed extinguishers, non-functioning illuminated exit signs, a failure to post no-smoking signs, inappropriate storage, and blocked egress issues. Two of the locations do not have running water as required. The risk to the community, given the proximity of all six locations to residential and/or commercial structures, prompted OCP to seek the orders.

“With the near-record dryness and the extreme temperatures, illegal operations of fireworks, especially in residential neighborhoods, pose a significant risk to the safety of our residents,” said City Prosecutor Helen Marchal.

Even under the most cautious of business operations, fireworks can be dangerous. DCE inspectors determined it was necessary for these six locations to desist operations after a review of dozens of permits that have been issued by the State in Marion County. IMPD will be issuing the orders this afternoon for the following locations:

Commercial/Retail Locations:

2322 E. Washington St.

1509 N. Arlington Ave.

4402 S. Madison Ave.

2945 N. Post Road

Residential Neighborhoods:

5737 E. 22nd St.

1016 S. Villa Ave.

A hearing on the temporary restraining orders is set for July 9, 2012, at 2 p.m. in Environmental Court, Marion Superior 12, located at 902 E. Virginia Ave.

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